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1 chile as a symbol of a way of life and a living cultural asset
2 of the great state of New Mexico, it is imperative that a
3 written document be compiled, that historic records be
4 maintained and that the story be made accessible to the
5 citizens of New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, it is right and proper for all people to know and
7 understand the unique history of chile, the role it has played
8 and the legendary status it has achieved in the formation of
9 the state's food traditions; and

10 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile followed a cultural, industrial,
11 agricultural and political pathway from 1598 to 1821, when the
12 Spanish flag flew over New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, between 1821 and 1846, when the Mexican flag flew
14 over New Mexico, Chimayo chile acquired a legendary status on
15 established trade routes due to its particular taste; and

16 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile is still grown in the northern New
17 Mexico mountain valley that the early Spaniards called La
18 Canada and that is now known as Chimayo; and

19 WHEREAS, for the first two hundred fifty years of northern
20 New Mexico Hispanic history, Chimayo proudly maintained its
21 food traditions, customs and culture, adapting and integrating
22 chile traditions with native counterparts as an act of
23 thanksgiving and faith; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1846, New Mexico became a territory of the
25 United States, achieving statehood in 1912; and

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1 WHEREAS, four hundred three years later, Chimayo chile
2 still enjoys the legendary status begun by the industrious
3 growers who developed the first chile trade routes to the
4 north; and

5 WHEREAS, Chimayo growers continue to proudly herald and
6 celebrate the state's living food traditions, customs, culture
7 and faith; and

8 WHEREAS, the Hispanic children of New Mexico should
9 understand that their roots are in the proud status of Chimayo
10 chile and the land where it grows; and

11 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile has achieved legendary status as a
12 food heirloom in oral history; and

13 WHEREAS, that status as an oral heirloom enables ongoing
14 cultivators of Chimayo chile to take pride in the four-hundred-
15 year development of their living food traditions along with the
16 economic well-being it affords them; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's Hispanic history and food traditions
18 are unique among all the states in the union; and

19 WHEREAS, it is important to keep Chimayo's agricultural
20 and cultural asset alive and well preserved through organized
21 study and practicums;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Chimayo chile be recognized as a
24 living heirloom of northern New Mexico Hispanic cultural, food
25 and agricultural traditions that is worthy of preservation; and

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